

House File 56 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 56

BY BYRNES

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the use of lighted headlamps on motor vehicles
2 at all times of operation and making a penalty applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.235A, subsection 3, Code 2015, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. A person shall not operate an electric personal assistive
4 mobility device at the times specified in section 321.384,
5 subsection 2, unless the person or the electric personal
6 assistive mobility device is equipped with a headlight visible
7 from the front of the electric personal assistive mobility
8 device and at least one red reflector visible from the rear of
9 the electric personal assistive mobility device.

10 Sec. 2. Section 321.384, Code 2015, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **321.384 When lighted lamps required.**

13 1. Every motor vehicle upon a highway within the state,
14 ~~at any time from sunset to sunrise, and at such other times~~
15 ~~when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide~~
16 ~~insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons~~
17 ~~and vehicles on the highway at a distance of five hundred~~
18 ~~feet ahead~~, shall, at all times, display lighted headlamps as
19 provided in section 321.415, subject to exceptions under this
20 chapter with respect to parked vehicles ~~as hereinafter stated~~,
21 or unless otherwise provided for in subsection 2.

22 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, certain lighting devices,
23 as designated in this chapter, shall be displayed at all times
24 from sunset to sunrise, and at such other times when conditions
25 such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting
26 to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the
27 highway at a distance of five hundred feet ahead.

28 ~~2. 3. Whenever A requirement is hereinafter declared as to~~
29 in this chapter regarding the distance from which certain lamps
30 and devices shall render objects visible or within which such
31 lamps or devices shall be visible, ~~said provisions shall apply~~
32 during the times stated in subsection 1 of this section 2 upon
33 a straight level unlighted highway under normal atmospheric
34 conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly
35 stated.

1 Sec. 3. Section 321.392, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2015,
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 Every motor truck, and every trailer or semitrailer of over
4 three thousand pounds gross weight, shall be equipped with the
5 following lighting devices and reflectors in addition to other
6 requirements of this chapter, and such devices shall be lighted
7 at the times mentioned in section 321.384, subsection 2.

8 Sec. 4. Section 321.394, Code 2015, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 **321.394 Lamp or flag on projecting load.**

11 Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four
12 feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle there
13 shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the
14 times specified in section 321.384, subsection 2, a red light
15 or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least five
16 hundred feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern
17 required under this section shall be in addition to the red
18 rear light required upon every vehicle. At any other time
19 there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a
20 red flag or cloth not less than sixteen inches square.

21 Sec. 5. Section 321.395, Code 2015, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 **321.395 Lamps on parked vehicles.**

24 Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway
25 or shoulder adjacent to the roadway, outside of a business
26 district whether attended or unattended during the times
27 mentioned in section 321.384, subsection 2, such vehicle shall
28 be equipped with one or more lamps which shall exhibit a white
29 or amber light on the roadway side visible from a distance
30 of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle and a red
31 light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the
32 rear, except that local authorities may provide by ordinance
33 or resolution that no lights need be displayed upon any such
34 vehicle when stopped or parked in accordance with local parking
35 regulations upon a highway where there is sufficient light to

1 reveal any person or object within a distance of five hundred
2 feet upon such highway. Any lighted headlamps upon a parked
3 vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

4 Sec. 6. Section 321.397, Code 2015, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 **321.397 Lamps on bicycles.**

7 Every bicycle shall be equipped with a lamp on the front
8 exhibiting a white light, at the times specified in section
9 321.384, subsection 2, visible from a distance of at least
10 three hundred feet to the front and with a lamp on the rear
11 exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of three hundred
12 feet to the rear; except that a red reflector may be used in
13 lieu of a rear light. A peace officer riding a police bicycle
14 is not required to use either front or rear lamps if duty so
15 requires.

16 Sec. 7. Section 321.398, Code 2015, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **321.398 Lamps on other vehicles and equipment.**

19 All vehicles, including animal-drawn vehicles and including
20 those referred to in section 321.383 not hereinbefore
21 specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the
22 times specified in section 321.384, subsection 2, be equipped
23 with at least one lighted lamp or lantern exhibiting a white
24 light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the front
25 of such vehicle and, except for animal-drawn vehicles, with a
26 lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a distance
27 of five hundred feet to the rear. Animal-drawn vehicles shall
28 be equipped with a flashing amber light visible from a distance
29 of five hundred feet to the rear of the vehicle during the time
30 specified in section 321.384, subsection 2.

31 Sec. 8. Section 321.405, Code 2015, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 **321.405 Self-illumination.**

34 All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated when
35 in use at the times mentioned in section 321.384, subsection 2.

1 Sec. 9. Section 321.415, Code 2015, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **321.415 Required usage of lighting devices.**

4 1. Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway
5 or shoulder ~~during the times specified in section 321.384~~, the
6 driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam,
7 directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal
8 persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the
9 vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

10 a. Where ambient sunlight is of sufficient intensity to
11 reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of
12 the vehicle without the use of lighting devices, the lowermost
13 distribution of light, or composite beam, specified in section
14 321.409, subsection 1, paragraph "b", shall be used.

15 ~~a.~~ b. Whenever a driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming
16 vehicle within one thousand feet, the driver shall use a
17 distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the
18 glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming
19 driver. The lowermost distribution of light, or composite
20 beam, specified in section 321.409, subsection 1, paragraph
21 "b", shall be deemed to avoid glare at all times, regardless of
22 road contour and loading.

23 ~~b.~~ c. Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another
24 vehicle within four hundred feet to the rear, except when
25 engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, the driver shall
26 use a distribution of light permissible under this chapter
27 other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in
28 section 321.409, subsection 1, paragraph "a".

29 2. The provisions of subsection 1, paragraphs ~~"a"~~ "b" and
30 ~~"b"~~ "c", do not apply to motorcycles or motorized bicycles being
31 operated between sunrise and sunset.

32 Sec. 10. Section 321.418, Code 2015, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **321.418 Alternate road-lighting equipment.**

35 Any motor vehicle may be operated ~~under the conditions~~

1 ~~specified in section 321.384 when~~ while equipped with two
 2 lighted lamps upon the front thereof capable of revealing
 3 persons and objects seventy-five feet ahead under the
 4 conditions specified in section 321.384, subsection 2, in
 5 lieu of lamps required in sections 321.409 and 321.415, or
 6 section 321.417, provided, however, that at no time shall it be
 7 operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.

8 Sec. 11. Section 321.419, Code 2015, is amended to read as
 9 follows:

10 **321.419 Number of driving lamps required or permitted.**

11 At all times ~~specified in section 321.384~~ at least two
 12 lighted lamps, except where one only is permitted, shall be
 13 displayed, one on each side at the front of every motor vehicle
 14 except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations
 15 governing lights on parked vehicles.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 Current law requires the use of lighted headlamps and
 20 certain other lighting devices at any time from sunset to
 21 sunrise, and at such other times when conditions such as fog,
 22 snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to render
 23 clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a
 24 distance of 500 feet ahead.

25 The bill requires motor vehicles to display lighted
 26 headlamps at all times of operation on a roadway or shoulder.
 27 The scheduled fine for a violation of this provision remains
 28 \$30. The bill also requires that, where ambient sunlight is of
 29 sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe
 30 distance in advance of the vehicle without the use of lighting
 31 devices, the lowermost distribution of light or composite beam
 32 shall be used. The scheduled fine for a violation of this
 33 provision remains \$30.

34 The use of certain other lighting devices remains mandatory
 35 only at all times from sunset to sunrise, and at such other

1 times when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide
2 insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and
3 vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead.